

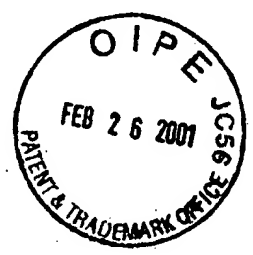
0900  
0340

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor : Philipp H. Schmid et al.	
Appln. No.: 09/751,836	
Filed : December 29, 2000	Group Art Unit: ---
For : MIDDLEWARE LAYER BETWEEN SPEECH RELATED APPLICATIONS AND ENGINES	Examiner: ---
Docket No.: M61.12-0323	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING  
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS  
20th DAY OF February 2001.  
*[Signature]*  
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph to page 1 at line 4.

The present application is based on and claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/219,861, filed July 20, 2000, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.